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Security Information

22 May 1953

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SUBJECT: Supervision of Projects and Accountability

1. Reference is made to the memorandum dated 15 April 1953 from the Director to the Deputy Director (Plans) on the subject: "Supervision of Projects and Accountability." A copy of the subject memorandum was circulated through all Division during the first week in May and called attention to the fact that responsibility for approval of expenditures should not stop with the Director's signature on a DDCI recommendation and also that the responsibility did not reside with the individual case officer.

2. The signature of an approving officer on a voucher is presumed to be evidence of his determination that the action involved is legal and proper. Many such vouchers are by their very nature either self-supporting or supported by documentation in the form of ticket stubs, receipts, and so forth, or by existing contracts providing for a fixed pattern of payments. There are, however, a large number of such vouchers which are totally unsupported by anything more than the signature of a case officer. These include such things as [REDACTED]

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3. In order that I may properly discharge my responsibility in approving such documents, it is requested that henceforth all such vouchers submitted by case officers be concurred in by the branch or staff chief concerned. Such concurrence shall be evidenced by a statement over the signature of the branch or staff chief to the effect that the action was necessary and appropriate to the operation concerned and that documentary support is on file in the branch or staff concerned. This will be notification to the approving officer that the determination has been made that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and was done at the direction of or with the subsequent approval of the branch or staff chief. In the absence of such determination, it would reasonably be incumbent upon the approving officer to determine that the action was a proper one. Such an intrusion of administration into operational questions would violate the fundamental relationship which has long existed between operations and administration. I am sure that such an intrusion would be unacceptable to the operator concerned and certainly it is not desired by me.

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OASAC, OA/Administrative Staff